

60-1634

4 MAR 1960

Dear Mrs. Eisenhower:

It was very thoughtful of you to write to Mrs. Dulles and myself concerning the Army Distaff Foundation. I have read the interesting brochure about the Foundation and know the cause is most worthwhile and challenging.

I note that General Dahlquist may be in further touch with me on the matter.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower
The White House
Washington, D. C.

IG/LBK/Drm 9 Feb 60

Rewritten: [] rad 3 Mar 60

Rewritten: AWD:rad 4 Mar 60

Distribution:

Orig - Addressee

1 - DCI

1 - DDCI

1 - IG chrono

1 - FMC

1 - Col. Grogan

(EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FILE)

STAT

2 March 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Army Distaff Foundation

1. Apparently Colonel Grogan and I cannot reach agreement on whether you should be a sponsor of the Army Distaff Foundation. He still thinks you should--see his memorandum of 23 February, and I am just as firmly convinced that you shouldn't.

2. Although I believe I mentioned most of these objections to you in our discussion, I will simply summarize why I think this would be unwise:

a. As Colonel Grogan's memorandum points out, this is a very limited foundation, for a very limited number of people, and while undoubtedly worthwhile, is still highly restricted.

b. Each of the armed services has its own charitable foundation. While it is true that this is the only one which benefits wives of deceased officers, if you accept this one there is very little basis on which to reject requests from the other military foundations.

c. As recently as 28 January 1960 you stated to the National Civil Service League, "I have followed a firm policy of declining participation in non-governmental committees."

d. As both Colonel Grogan and I mentioned to you, the way that this Distaff Foundation has been organized, and the pressure placed on it from the very highest level, has created resentment. You will note that Colonel Grogan says that regular army officers will be requested to contribute two days pay a year for three years. I believe this will create reaction.

3. I still feel that you have a most legitimate basis for respectfully declining to Mrs. Eisenhower.

STAT

Lyman B. Kirkpatrick
Inspector General

23 February 1960

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Kirkpatrick

SUBJECT: Army Distaff Foundation's National Committee of Sponsors and
Invitation to Mr. and Mrs. Dulles

I think it would be highly improper for me to ask Mary Jane McCaffrey to have Mrs. Eisenhower change her request. Mrs. McCaffrey, of course, has gone on the trip with the President.

My views on this matter may be biased; however, I believe this to be strictly non-political. The political angle, if it does exist, is in the fact that the wife of the President who was elected on the Republican ticket is making a request on the DCI, who was nominated as such by her husband and the fact that Mr. Dulles is known as a Republican. He has not permitted politics to have any influence in his own work or on the work of others in CIA. He is a member of the Administration's team, but is not engaged in any political activities. The Army Distaff Foundation is a humanitarian undertaking and not in any way political. Some 300 people will benefit. There are no other service activities of this character. The complaints against donating a dollar by some younger officers is certainly not widespread and are things that could be expected.

It is my belief that in the best interest of the DCI and CIA, the Director and his wife should be sponsors because the First Lady has so requested, keeping in mind that he made an exception for a social affair at Temple University. Policies must be flexible to be effective, and I think here the Director should be a sponsor.

President Eisenhower is the honorary chairman. Former President Hoover is a sponsor. Former President Truman has indicated that he will be a sponsor, together with Mrs. Truman. These are national sponsors. There will be Democrats and Republicans in the group, which I think pretty well kills any idea of politics in acceptance.

The national sponsors will have no meetings but will be notified of the scheduled meetings of the council and trustees and others who will guide this movement. In April or May, there will be a drive for funds among the retired Army personnel. The active Army is now being asked to contribute two days' pay a year for three years. The aim of the Foundation is to secure four and one-half million dollars so as to establish homes in San Francisco, San Antonio, Florida, and in the District of Columbia. Foundations, business firms, and civilians will be asked to contribute and the names of the national sponsors will be used on the letterhead of these appeals. Most of the names of national sponsors were submitted by Army Commanders throughout the Country, plus the Commanding General of the Military District of Washington and the purpose was to get sponsorship from the finest types of Americans in whom the public will have confidence. I hope again, that from what may be my biased opinion, the Director and Mrs. Dulles accept.

Stanley J. Grogan

STAT

UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	INITIALS	DATE
1	COL. GROGAN		
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN
CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE

Remarks:

Stan: Why don't you ask if Mary Jane Mc Caffrey would let the free of the hook. I'm still very much opposed to this.

- ① It will be interpreted as political.
- ② a very limited group benefits.
- ③ He will have to do same for other similar organizations.
- ④ The methods used here, as you have said, have been criticized.

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER

FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE
	14 Feb

STAT

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Dear Mrs. Eisenhower:

Mrs. Dulles and I will be delighted to serve as members of the Army Staff Foundation's National Committee of Sponsors being organized by General John E. Dahlquist. We are also happy to make a contribution.

While my policy is not to sponsor fund-raising activities while in my present position, except for our own Public Service Aid Society, which assists C.I.A. personnel, and Federally-sponsored fund drives, I am making an exception in this most worthwhile case.

We are flattered that you thought of us for this Committee.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower
The White House
Washington, D.C.

O/DCI/SJGrogan:abi (12 Feb 60)

Distribution:

Orig - Add

1 - DCI

1 - DECI

1 - ER

2 - SJGrogan

Dear Mrs. Eisenhower:

It was very thoughtful of you to write to Mrs. Dulles and myself concerning the Army Distaff Foundation, and we are flattered that you thought of us in this regard.

I have read the interesting brochure, "Facts About The Army Distaff Foundation," and know the cause is most worthwhile and the effort challenging and heartwarming.

Except for our own Public Service Aid Society, which assists C.I.A. personnel, and backing the Federally-sponsored fund drives within the Agency, I have felt it best not to personally participate in such efforts and will regretfully decline General Dahlquist's invitation. However, I will be happy to make a contribution to aid the cause.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles

Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower
The White House
Washington, D. C.

IG/LBK/drm (9 February 1960)

Distribution:

Original - Addressee

1 - DCI

1 - DDCI

1 - ERV

1 - IG chrono

Dear Mrs. Eisenhower:

It was very thoughtful of you to write to Mrs. Dulles and myself concerning the Army Distaff Foundation and we are flattered that you thought of us in this regard.

I have read the interesting brochure, "Facts About the Army Distaff Foundation," and know the cause is most worthwhile and the effort challenging and heartwarming.

Mrs. Dulles and I shall be delighted to contribute to this fine cause and I note that General Dahlquist will be in further touch with me on the matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower
The White House
Washington, D. C.

IG/LHK/drm 9 Feb 60

Rewritten: rad 3 Mar 60

Distribution:

Orig - Addressee
1 - DCI
1 - DDGI
1 - IGChrono
1 - FMC
1 - ER w/basic

MRS. DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

February 2, 1960

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Dulles:

General John E. Dahlquist USA (Ret) is President of the Army Distaff Foundation, a recently formed organization which hopes, with public support, to build here in Washington a Residence Hall for widows of Army Officers -- the first of its kind in the nation. It is my understanding that he is communicating with you to ask you to become a member of the Foundation's National Committee of Sponsors.

I have been delighted to accept the Honorary Chairmanship of the Women's Advisory Committee of the Foundation. I am writing to commend the Foundation to you and to express my hope that you will consent to join the approximately 100 Army Officers and leading civilians throughout the country whose public association with the Foundation will play a powerful part in winning the national support it will need.

The Foundation seeks to meet a very human, compelling and urgent need. It is my hope that you will accept General Dahlquist's invitation to join the sponsoring group.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mamie Doud Eisenhower". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Mamie Doud Eisenhower".

Mr. and Mrs. Allen W. Dulles
2723 Que Street
Washington 7
District of Columbia

THE ARMY DISTAFF FOUNDATION

Recognition that an Army woman left alone by the death of her husband is peculiarly adrift and in need of companionship brought the Army Distaff Foundation into being. It is a group of men and women, from both military and civilian circles, who organized in the District of Columbia as a non-profit, charitable corporation, the object of which is to obtain funds to build and operate a residence for older Army women. A board of 19 members serving without compensation, with an Executive Vice President and Executive Secretary, direct the Foundation's business.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

The Foundation was incorporated in February 1959. In one year's time it has acquired an outstandingly lovely 14 acre site in the District of Columbia facing Rock Creek Park. Stores and transportation are nearby. The land lies midway, one mile between Connecticut Avenue on the West and Walter Reed Hospital on the East. Offices have been set up in the graceful Tudor mansion already in existence on the property. This house will become the future Administration Building and recreational center for the project and will also house key members of the staff.

Mr. Edwin Weihe has been retained as architect and The Chas. H. Tompkins Company as builders. Complete plans have been drawn and filed with the District of Columbia authorities.

The Treasurer and all employees are bonded. The American Security & Trust Company is the

Foundation's bank. To date over \$100,000 has been received in contributions, for organizational and current expenses, such as taxes, etc. These contributions came from individuals and Army Wives Clubs throughout the world, evidence indeed of the interest of the public.

WHAT IS ARMY DISTAFF HALL?

It is the name proposed for the building that will house the residents. In it will be three hundred living units and a central dining room for optional use, though all but 38 living units will have kitchen facilities. There will be a fully equipped infirmary with twenty-five beds and doctors' offices and treatment rooms. There will be four types of units of varying sizes, all with full baths, very ample closets, and picture windows overlooking the beautiful grounds. The building will be air-conditioned.

All features of the plan were carefully designed to meet the requirements of "Housing for the Elderly." The corridors are 7 feet wide to permit the easy movement of stretchers or beds; doors are 4 feet wide to accommodate wheelchairs; bathroom doors open outward in case of accident; and wall-to-wall carpeting or non-skid tile will cover all floors, again, to prevent accidents—details that add to the expense in building but also add immeasurably to the safety and comfort of the occupants.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible for entrance in Army Distaff Hall, a woman must be 62 years of age or over at date of entrance; in reasonably good health; and

the widow, mother, daughter, sister, or mother-in-law of a Regular Army Officer, or of a Reserve Officer with twenty years' active service. She must be able to meet the modest entrance fee and rental charges, or, if unable to meet these charges in full, she may apply for Foundation Fellowship Assistance. Such assistance will be entirely confidential, and the recipient will in no way receive different treatment than other residents. The exact amount of the rents and the entrance fees will be announced later, when all costs are established, but well before the completion of the building and acceptance of entrance applications. It is anticipated that rent will be below comparable commercial rental rates, and the entrance fee, moderate. All residents are thus assured of "life care."

WHAT CAN I DO?

The success of this undertaking lies in clear understanding of the needs and objectives of the Foundation. The building will be financed principally by a loan. The remaining cost of construction must be met by the Foundation. The smaller the loan assumed, the less the carrying charges and hence the lower the rentals. Thus the money contributed will be used for two purposes: to pay a part of the cost of constructing and equipping the building, and second, to establish an endowment fund.

Understanding the situation of the Army widow is of utmost necessity. Army officers' compensation, according to the Cordiner Report, is about one-third of what their civilian counterparts—business executives—earn. Consequently

their widows and other dependents are often left with limited income. Few are now eligible for Social Security. Pensions for officers who die on active service range from \$143 a month for the widow of a lieutenant to that of \$316 for the rare case of a four-star general who dies on active duty. The widows of retired officers who die of a non-service connected disability are eligible only for Veterans Bureau compensation on the basis of war service. Thus the maximum amount paid to the widow of a Spanish War veteran is \$75, or to an officer who served in the 1st World War or incurred any percentage of pensionable disability in World War II or Korea is \$50.40, PROVIDED that her total income from all sources does not exceed \$1,400 annually.

But aside from the financial problem, there is a social and psychological need, one long recognized by those interested in the problems of the aging. Early in life Army wives sever home ties to accompany their husbands from post to post. Seas, continents and years separate them from family and former friends. When they become widowed they are truly alone, often strangers in the land they served. At Army Distaff Hall, they will meet and mingle with other Army women, people of similar backgrounds and interests, in a congenial and friendly atmosphere of security. This will give them privacy, dignity and "life care" at a moderate cost.

Realize these facts, explain them to others and give in such measure as you yourself can, thus a humane and practical solution to a vital problem will come into reality.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
ARMY DISTAFF FOUNDATION, INC.

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MRS. JASPER L. SEARLES
Executive Secretary

JANUARY 1960

FACTS

about the



ARMY DISTAFF FOUNDATION